



MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
February 15, 2005

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

MANCHESTER MAN PLEADS GUILTY OF FEDERAL FIREARMS OFFENSES IN CONNECTION WITH ARMED ROBBERIES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE--United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, the Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Office Kenneth W. Kaiser, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Special Agent in Charge William J. Hoover, Exeter Police Chief Richard Kane, Candia Police Chief Mike McGillen, Fremont Police Chief Neal Janvrin, and Epping Police Chief Gregory Dodge announce that **BRANDON L. BILODEAU**, age 27, of Manchester, pleaded guilty today in United States District Court in Concord, New Hampshire, to federal firearms offenses in connection with a series of armed robberies committed during the month of February 2004 in several towns along Route 101.

Before United States District Judge Paul Barbadoro, **BILODEAU** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm on February 25, 2004. On that date, Exeter Police located a stolen Jennings .22 caliber handgun in **BILODEAU'S** vehicle, which handgun had been stolen in a daytime burglary of a residence in Fremont, New Hampshire, on February 19, 2004. **BILODEAU'S** criminal history qualifies him as an Armed Career Criminal under federal law and subjects him to a fifteen (15) year minimum mandatory sentence in federal prison.

In addition to the felon in possession charge, **BILODEAU** also pleaded guilty to using the Jennings handgun in an armed robbery of the West Epping Village Market in the evening of February 19, 2004, the same day the handgun was stolen. **BILODEAU** admitted to brandishing the firearm during the crime of violence, which under federal law subjects him to a seven (7) year minimum mandatory sentence which must be imposed consecutive to the fifteen (15) year sentence.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case is another strong example of the value and success of the Justice Department's gun violence reduction program, Project Safe Neighborhoods. PSN is designed to coordinate federal, state and local law enforcement and community resources to address gun violence. One aspect of the program is the aggressive enforcement of existing firearms laws. In this case, the defendant faces 22 years in federal prison based on his illegal possession and use of stolen firearm."

He went on to say, “The case is also a model example of the coordinated efforts of federal and local law enforcement. Multiple agencies were involved in the investigation of several burglaries and armed robberies in four different towns, all of which pulled together, with the assistance of federal agencies, to solve the cases and bring this defendant to justice.”

Sentencing is scheduled for May 27, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. before Judge Barbadoro. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark E. Howard.

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